



Switzerland.
by train, bus and boat.

GoldenPass Panoramic.

Where the panoramic window is your movie screen.

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GoldenPass Panoramic in Schönbühl, Bernese Oberland

MOB
COMPAGNIE DU CHEMIN DE FER
MONTREUX OBERLAND BERNOIS



Switzerland.
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Travelling can be
so authentic.

The Swiss know why they choose train, bus and boat: This is where quality merges with reliability. So, whoever wishes to experience Switzerland at its most authentic should do as the locals do.

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Here's where the panoramic window is your movie screen.

During the journey on the GoldenPass Panoramic the tradition-rich Bernese Oberland merges with the Mediterranean atmosphere of the French-speaking part of Switzerland. High panoramic windows allow travellers to immerse themselves in the diverse scenery – year-round.

The GoldenPass Panoramic really lives up to its name: It leisurely moves from Zweisimmen in the Bernese Oberland towards Montreux, the fashionable city at the shores of Lake Geneva. Passing magnificent castles as well as peacefully grazing cattle en route, it finally crosses the German-French language border. On the last leg, it winds down the hill – and with the arrival at Montreux visitors become engrossed in the Mediterranean flair of the region.



History

The idea to make the stretch between Zweisimmen and Montreux accessible by train was born early on. After the foundation of the Montreux-Oberland Bernois Railway in the year 1899, work on this project began in earnest. Step by step, line sections were opened. The year 1906 saw the entry into service of the first dining cars. With that, the line became a trailblazer in Switzerland.

Many English-speaking guests travelled the line in late autumn that year, enjoying the glorious autumn colours. They had a “Golden Time” on the train ride over the passes – and so the name “Golden Pass” was coined for this route. In 1976, the Montreux-Oberland Bernois Railway started using the first air-conditioned panoramic coaches in Europe thereby upgrading the offer. Another rail novelty was added in 1985: a glass cockpit at the front of the train. These VIP seats guarantee an unobstructed view of the rail construction as well as the landscape rolling by. For reasons of maintenance and refurbishing works, these coaches will be back in operation in April 2020.

Highlights along the GoldenPass Panoramic line.

On its way from Zweisimmen to Montreux, the GoldenPass Panoramic passes the following sights and excursion possibilities:

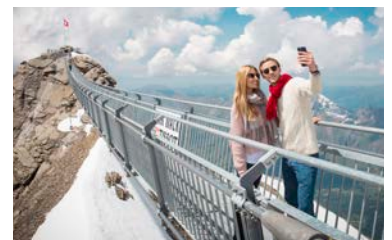


Zweisimmen.

Here begins the journey through the tradition-rich Bernese Oberland and the Saanenland down to the French-speaking “Swiss Riviera”. The location is especially popular with hikers and winter sports enthusiasts: There are numerous hiking trails and many kilometres of ski slopes around this village of only roughly 3,000 inhabitants. Also, kick scooter, bicycle and mountain bike routes abound. On a side route of the MOB, guests reach the holiday resort Lenk i/S. with the waterfalls of the river Simme.

Glacier 3000.

The glacier summit of Gstaad delights visitors with its impressive summit station designed by Mario Botta and the breathtaking Peak Walk by Tissot. This is a 107-metre-long suspension bridge spanning the abyss between two mountain peaks – at a dizzy height of 3,000 metres above sea level, no less. Visitors travel to Gstaad on the Panoramic and then change to the PostBus to Col du Pillon, the valley station of the Glacier 3000.



Gstaad.

Known as the health resort of the rich and handsome, Gstaad impresses with beautifully decorated chalets and Alpine charms. The Niklaus Chapel and the railway viaduct are also well worth a visit. Maybe the stop-over allows for a stroll through the pedestrian zone and for enjoying the wonderful view over coffee and cake at the well-known Palace Hotel.

Sir Yehudi Menuhin and Saanen.

Saanen is located a mere five kilometres before the language border. In this tranquil little village, a great artist has left his mark: Sir Yehudi Menuhin. More than 60 years ago, the now late violinist and maestro founded the world-famous music festival “Gstaad Menuhin Festival & Academy”. It is entirely understandable that this highly gifted musician was made a citizen of honour of Saanen county.



Language border.

On its way, the GoldenPass Panoramic crosses the German-French language border, colloquially dubbed the “Röstigraben” (“Rösti divide”, referring to the cultural differences between the German- and French-speaking parts of Switzerland). The landscape gradually changes from lush green pastures and hills to the Mediterranean flair of the “Swiss Riviera”.



Château-d'Oex.

Locals mentally link this main town of the open valley “Pays-d'Enhaut” with the St. Donat church, the Alpine show dairy “Le Châlet” and hot air ballooning. In 1997, Bertrand Piccard and Bryan Jones started their first non-stop round-the-world flight in a hot air balloon in this town. End of January, the 42st International Aerostier Meeting is held here.

Reservoir “Lac de Vernex” and Grand Chalet Rossinière.

Shortly before Rossinière station, a stately wood chalet with 113 windows towers on the right-hand side. It counts among Switzerland's greatest period buildings and is historically important: Even Victor Hugo once stayed – and penned part of his world-famous novel “Les Misérables” – here. On the left-hand side, the reservoir “Lac de Vernex” is an important source of electricity, part of which is sold to the railway lines. Here, the river Saane is being dammed for the first of five times.



Jaman Pass & Jaman Tunnel.

Cheese was formerly transported to Vevey at Lake Geneva via the Jaman Pass. The passage was long and arduous. When the stretch was due to be developed for the railway in the beginning of the 20th century, it was decided to cut a tunnel through the Jaman. The reason was obvious: Trains could not have negotiated the steep ascend to the pass without cogwheel drivetrain technology.

Les Avants.

Les Avants is considered to be the home of the daffodils, also called “May snow” due to their flowering in the second half of May. In former times, the Swiss Riviera was popular as a “wintering area” during the cold months. Until today, families drive up the Sonloup in the “Funi” and use the streets, closed for traffic in winter, for sledging down into the valley.



Vineyards UNESCO & Fête des Vignerons.

They can be seen from the train windows from a distance: the vineyards of the Lavaux, protected by UNESCO. Especially at sunset, the combination of the lake waters and the south-facing slopes covered in vines is ravishingly beautiful. In 2019, the “Fête des Vignerons” (Festival of winegrowers) took place against the backdrop of this scenery. This homage to the culture of winemaking is only celebrated once every 20 years. It's an event with spectacular performances and the honouring of the best winegrower.

Castles “Château Chillon” & “Château Châtelard”.

As the GoldenPass Panoramic draws near to Lake Geneva, the magnificent Chillon Castle and Châtelard Castle come into view. The first can be accessed by land and water. For this reason, the castle served as a strategic check point for passengers between the northern and southern parts of Europe as far back as the 12th century. Today, its doors are open for interested visitors – especially for Swiss Travel Pass holders: The admission is included in the pass.





Montreux.

In the mid-1800s, Montreux became very popular with affluent Brits, who loved to reside in the “Grand Hôtels” of those times. A piece of British culture has been preserved up to this day at Montreux: The successful rock band Queen produced six of its world-famous albums in the Mountain Studios at Lake Geneva. In memoriam of Freddy Mercury, a larger-than-life statue was erected in his honour. This monument is also in the centre of the annual Montreux Jazz Festival.

Rochers-de-Naye (2’042 a.s.l.)

Right in the middle of Montreux, the lower terminal of the cog railway up to the Rocher-de-Naye is located. The train leisurely passes charming houses and splendid palaces, offering various views of Lake Geneva on its way to the summit. There, guests are greeted by whistling marmots in summertime – and by Father Christmas himself in winter. In the warmer months, a visit of the Alpine garden is of course a real must.



GoldenPass Belle Époque.

The GoldenPass Belle Époque is more than just a train. The moment guests step in they feel like stepping back in time: The coaches are panelled in precious wood and adorned with gold-plated decorations. In softly upholstered seats, travellers enjoy the ride between Montreux and Zweisimmen in the style of the Orient Express. A small plate with regional delicacies is served to the seat on order – just as it was done during the Belle Époque.

Cheese Train.

Whether mild or spicy, creamy or hard – the Swiss love good cheese. The “Train du Fromage” (Cheese Train) takes a closer look at this most popular of dairy products. Each winter, a special train sets course for Château-d’Oex in the “Pays-d’Enhaut”. Once arrived, guests experience from up close how 200 litres of organic milk turn into tasty hard cheese. A delicious fondue afterwards is a matter of course. mystsnet.com/cheesetrain



Chocolate Train.

A visit to Switzerland without a taste of its famous chocolate? Impossible. Montreux-Oberland Bernois Railway has even dedicated a special train to the most tender of temptations. Elegant Belle Époque Pullman coaches take guests from Montreux to Montbovon. From there, passengers continue the journey by bus to the show dairy “La Maison du Gruyère” and onwards to the quaint village of Gruyères. The crowning event: the visit to the Cailler (Nestlé) chocolate factory in Broc. mystsnet.com/chocolatetrain



Grand Train Tour of Switzerland.

The GoldenPass Panoramic is part of the Grand Train Tour of Switzerland. This unique route merges the most beautiful panoramic lines of Switzerland into one overall experience. The journey leads to charming Swiss cities, through Alpine resorts and to impressive sights and landmarks. Many mountain excursions are perfect companions for the Grand Train Tour of Switzerland.

Facts and Figures.

Route	Zweisimmen–Montreux 1 h 48 min
Offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Panoramic coaches 1st and 2nd class, air-conditioned▪ VIP front view seats available as of April 2020 in some trains▪ low-floor access and wheelchair-accessible toilet
Eating and drinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Some trains offer a minibar▪ Aperitif and appetisers available on request
Timetable	365 days a year
Stops	Zweisimmen–Sannenmöser–Schönried–Gstaad–Saanen–Rougemont–Château-d'Oex–Rossinière–Montbovon–Les Avants–Chamby–Chernex–Fontanivent–Montreux
Seat reservation and surcharge	Seat reservation is not required but possible and recommended on the GoldenPass Panoramic. Surcharge: CHF 9

Ticket information

Ticket	Route & fares Zweisimmen–Montreux or vice versa
Swiss Travel Pass Swiss Travel Pass Flex Swiss Travel Pass Youth	included
Swiss Half Fare Card	CHF 16.50 in 2nd class CHF 29 in 1st class
Children 6 –15.99 years with Swiss Family Card	free of charge
Without discount	CHF 33 in 2nd class CHF 58 in 1st class
Eurail	included
Interrail	included

All prices are subject to change.

Points-of-sale

- Swiss Travel System points-of-sale worldwide:
mystsnet.com/wheretobuy
- Every railway station in Switzerland

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